

In The Claims:

A marked-up version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Exhibit

B. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Please enter the following amended claims:

Sub 1. (Once Amended) A particle, comprising:

a core particle; and

A2 at least one substance, associated with said core particle, comprising magnetic material and polymeric material, wherein an amount and type of magnetic material in said substance ranges from greater than 0% to nearly 100% of said substance, and wherein said amount and type of magnetic material is chosen to achieve a desired magnetic response from said particle upon exposure to a magnetic field.

A3 4. (Once Amended) A particle according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one substance is a nanosphere comprising polymeric material and magnetic material.

6. (Once Amended) A particle, comprising:

a core particle; and

A4 an amount of at least one magnetic substance, associated with said core particle, wherein said amount of said at least one magnetic substance is effective to achieve a desired magnetic response from said particle upon exposure to a magnetic field.

20. (Once Amended) A set of particles, comprising:

AS
pooled populations of particles comprising at least a first population of particles and another population of particles, wherein particles of each population comprise at least one magnetic substance in an amount effective for achieving a desired magnetic response upon exposure to a magnetic field, and wherein said first population of particles is distinguishable from said another population of particles based at least on said desired magnetic response of the particles within said first population upon exposure to a magnetic field.

21. (Once Amended) A method of forming magnetically-responsive particles, comprising:

associating with a particle at least one magnetic substance in an amount effective for achieving a desired magnetic response upon exposure to a magnetic field.

22. (Once Amended) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the at least one magnetic substance is covalently linked to said core particle.

25. (Once Amended) A method of forming a magnetically-responsive population of particles, comprising:

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selecting an amount of magnetic substance for achieving a desired magnetic response upon exposure to a magnetic field;

selecting a population of particles wherein particles of said population comprise core particles; and

associating the amount of magnetic substance with said core particles.